



PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate publication



Still time to enter the 2010 Institute of Horticulture Young Horticulturist of the Year competition

This year's Institute of Horticulture Young Horticulturist of the Year competition is well under way with heats taking place across Great Britain and Ireland, but there's still time for anyone who hasn't yet entered to take part in one of the heats which will continue throughout February and March.

The competition is open to horticulturists below the age of 30 on July 31 2010 who are studying horticulture or working in the horticulture industry. Entry is free and the winner gets a Percy Thrower travel bursary of £2000 sponsored by the Shropshire Horticultural Society, but there are lots of other prizes to be won at the heats, regional finals and the Grand Final. Together they're valued at more than £10,000. Past winners have also found it a great boost for their CV and career prospects.

Whilst most of the heats are held at horticultural colleges for student entrants, the Institute is keen to encourage young people working in all sectors the industry to enter. Special open heats are being held for them in each region. Anyone interested in the open heats, or making a late entry to the competition, should contact the IoH office on 01992 707025 or email info@horticulture.org.uk. Entries for the open heats will not be accepted after February 28.

Once all the heats are completed, regional finals will follow in March, and The Grand Final will be held at Kew Gardens (Jodrell Lecture Theatre) on Saturday 15 May. With the world famous gardens as the backdrop, this culmination of the 2010 competition promises to be an event not to be missed. The winner at Kew will be looking to emulate the success of Alex Summers, who won the 2009 Institute of Horticulture Young Horticulturist of the Year and used his bursary for a trip of a lifetime to Borneo to study the native flora of the region.

Sponsors for the 2010 competition, in addition to the Shropshire Horticultural Society, include the recruitment company MorePeople, the R&D levy body the Horticultural Development Company (HDC) and tool company Bulldog Tools.



Notes for editors:

For media updates please contact Graham Porter on 077 1170 4152

The competition

- The 2010 competition is open to any horticulturist who is below the age of 30 on 31 July 2010.
- The competition is run in three phases: local heats and open heats for those not able to get to local and regional colleges. Followed by eight Regional Finals and the Grand Final.
- The competition is organised by the Institute of Horticulture through an organising action group, chaired by Susan Nicholas (contact details available from Graham Porter on request).
- Local heats are based on multiple choice questions on a wide range of horticultural topics, through an MS PowerPoint presentation and on-line. The heats are organised by eight IOH Regional YHOY Organisers and take place at colleges, garden centres and anywhere else where competitors may gather. These got underway from early January 2010 onwards. For contact details of the organising action group and Regional Organisers, contact Graham Porter (details below).
- Heat winners go forward to one of eight Regional Finals, usually run in February and March, in which a Question Master asks a wide range of horticultural questions, some on a buzzer, some directed to individual contestants, with three identification rounds to further test the contestants.
- The winner of each Regional Final then goes forward to the YHOY Grand Final to be held on May 15 2010 at Kew Gardens. The format is the same as for the Branch Finals and the questions are drawn from all branches of horticulture.
- The overall winner collects the Percy Thrower Travel Bursary, worth £2,000, provided by the Shropshire Horticultural Society. This funds a horticultural tour anywhere in the world. Previous YHOY winners have visited New Zealand, the Himalayas, the United States, South America and various parts of Europe.
- There are plenty of prizes at Regional Final and local heat level as well. The value of prizes in the 2009 competition topped £10,000, thanks to the generosity of a wide range of sponsors.
- Further information on the competition on the IOH website at www.horticulture.org.uk.
- The 2009 finalists were:
 - South East Branch – Alex Summers – (1st place)
 - Eastern Branch – James Hearsom (2nd place)
 - West Midlands and South Wales Branch – Faye Steer (3rd place)
 - Scottish Branch – Adam Bowley (4th place)
 - North West and North Wales Branch – Sam Turner (5th place)
 - Northern Branch – Sally Johnson (6th place)
 - Irish Branch – Jennifer Reilly (7th place)
 - South West Branch – Ross Tapley (8th place)

Sponsorship

The 2010 competition is sponsored by:

- Shropshire Horticultural Society/Percy Thrower Trust, which funds the Percy Thrower Travel Bursary
- MorePeople
- Horticultural Development Company
- Bulldog Tools

The Institute of Horticulture is interested to hear from companies who would be willing to offer financial or other sponsorship at all levels of the competition for 2010. In the first instance, please contact the IoH Administration Team on 01992 707025 or email: info@horticulture.org.uk.

IoH Contact details:

Institute of Horticulture,
Capel Manor College
Bullsmoor Lane
Enfield
Middlesex
EN1 4RQ
Tel: 01992 707025
Email: info@horticulture.org.uk
www.horticulture.org.uk

YHOY media information:

Graham Porter FI Hort, Cert Ed, MifL,
Email: graham.porter@ntlworld.com.
Tel Home / business: 01484 319681
Mobile: 077 1170 4152